

# The Origin of the Names of the Post Offices of Simcoe County

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David Williams

Collingwood

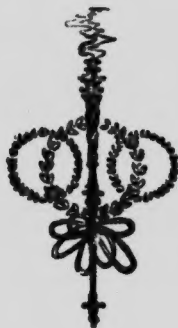


Toronto  
William Briggs  
1906



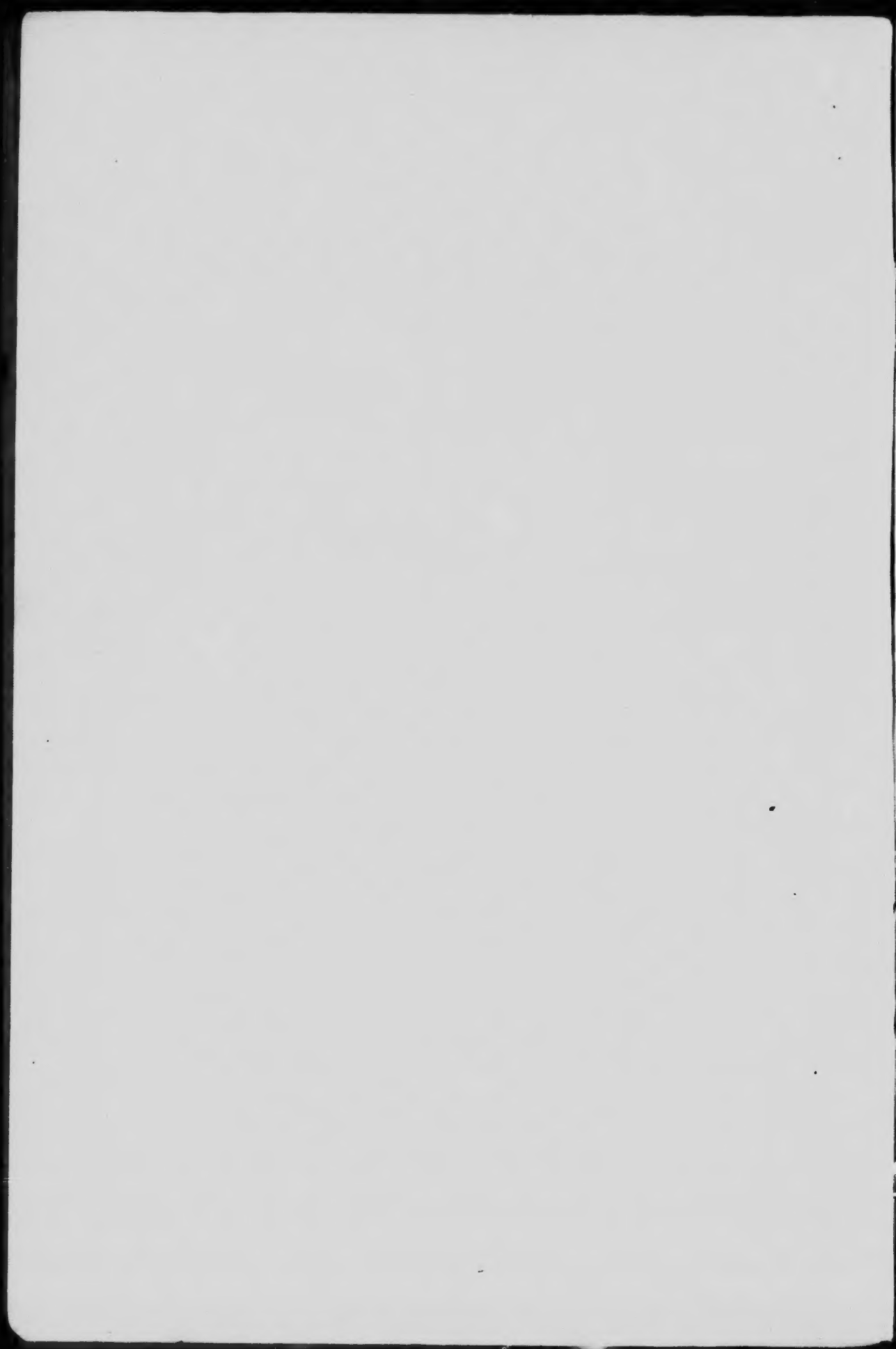
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# The Origin of the Names of the Post Offices of Simcoe County

BY DAVID WILLIAMS

The sources of the names of places are almost unlimited. Some are named after their founder or after some place or circumstance germane to him or his associates. Thus, England is the land of the Angles, Nova Scotia is a new Scotland to home-seekers far across the ocean; St. Lawrence commemorates the day of the river discovery; London, Thames, Stratford, Avon, were named in loving memory of the Home-land. Others are named after some physical feature, as Montreal, the royal mountain; or some incident in their history may have suggested a name that appealed to all and became at once and forever adopted, as Pennsylvania. In Canada many places are named after the original inhabitants, or have retained the name they gave it; as Huron, Penetanguishene.

So, to compare smaller things with greater, we find that all these cases, as well as others of a more official character, have operated in giving names to the one hundred and seventy-three or four main distributing centres of the County of Simcoe, the largest county in the Province of Ontario. Many of them are named after the first settlers of the immediate locality, as Fennells, Guthrie, and it is thus that the memory of those who were first to brave the hardships of life in the wilderness is perpetuated; some from the towns or boroughs these settlers had left beyond the seas, as Hampshire Mills, Dalston; others from local peculiarities or incidents, as Glen Huron, Anten Mills; while

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not a few were officially named after distinguished men or noted places, as Gowan, Angus; others again from Indian words, as Nottava, Washago.

The purpose of this paper is to trace the name of each individual place to its original source in such a way as to present as far as possible a view, disconnected though it may be, of the history of the early life of the county. This is no easy task. Though not more than sixty or seventy years have elapsed since the first settlers ventured into the unbroken forests of the county, yet that generation of bold and hardy pioneers who led the van in making this country what it is has passed away and their descendants have in many cases forgotten or neglected to cherish the recollection of the early backwood life of their ancestors, and not unfrequently the first families have become extinct, or their offspring have moved to parts unknown, so that the origin of the names is in some cases clouded in some uncertainty.

One noticeable feature is, that where the original names remain, they are a pretty safe indication of the nationality of the pioneers. Where the names are of Scottish origin, it goes without saying that the locality was first settled by immigrants from Scotland. The same is true of the English, Irish and French names.

It is impossible to return thanks to all who have assisted in this work, either by correspondence or the loan of volumes, but it would be most ungrateful not to mention Simcoe's Grand Old Man, Senator J. R. Gowan, Barrie; H. Robertson, K.C., and F. T. Hodgson, Collingwood; George Hale, Orillia; Rev. Canon Craig of Petrolia, a former resident of the county; A. C. Osborne, of Penetang, and H. F. Gardiner, Principal of the Institute for the Blind, Brantford, and author of "Nothing but Names."

**ACHILL.**—This name was given by the Irish settlers in the vicinity who came from Achill, or Eagle Island, in Connaught, on the west coast of Ireland. The island is small, containing about 2,300 acres, and rises to a height of 1,530 feet above the sea.

**ALLANDALE.**—Upon the completion of the Huron, Ontario and Simcoe Railway—later the Northern Railway, now the Northern Division of the Grand Trunk Railway—to this point in 1854, it was named Barrie Station, a name it retained until the spur was built to the county town. In 1858 the post office was established. The present name was given in honor of Hon. G. W. Allan, who owned land in the vicinity and who was an intimate friend of those engaged in the



promotion and construction of the railway. Mr. Allan was a lawyer. He was born in Toronto in 1822, and was Mayor of his native city in 1865. In 1858 he was elected a member of the Legislature for the York Division, and in 1867, at Confederation, was called to the Senate, where he was Speaker from 1888 to 1891. He gave the Allan Gardens to Toronto.

**ALLENWOOD.**—The name of this post office, which is one of the pioneer offices of the northern section of the County of Simcoe, was arrived at by combining the surnames of the first and second settlers in the vicinity, William Wood and Thomas Allen. The object was obviously to honor the two pioneers.

**ALLISTON.**—An early settler and mill owner, William Fletcher, named this place after his native town in Yorkshire, England. The post office is one of the oldest in the south-west part of the county, having been established in 1857. The local poet, Colgan, in an epic thus expresses his admiration of the town:

Hail! Alliston, centre of commerce and trade,  
Young men of Tecumseh, here fortunes are made.

**ANGUS.**—This is one of the early post offices of the northern section of the county and owes its existence to the extension of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway (named after the three lakes on which were its chief objective points) into what was then the wilds of the North. It was established in 1856, the name being given in honor of the late Angus Morrison, who was member of the Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada from 1854 to 1863. Mr. Morrison was born in Edinburgh in 1822, and came to Canada in 1834, settling in Toronto. In 1846 he was called to the bar and was first elected to Parliament in 1854 as a Liberal, defeating the Conservative candidate, James Sanson, of Orillia, by 44 votes. In 1857 he was again elected as a Liberal, this time by acclamation, but before the next general election, which occurred in 1861, he had gone over to the Conservative ranks, largely owing, it is said, to the persuasive influence of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. His change of politics, however, did not keep him out of Parliament, as he was again elected, this time defeating two opponents, the late Thomas D. McConkey, afterwards a member of the Legislature and yet later Sheriff of the County, and Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, a barrister of Toronto. In 1863 he was defeated, Mr. McConkey being elected. At the general election following Confedera-

tion, Mr. Morrison again sought re-election. Those were the days of dual representation and Mr. Morrison was one of those who endeavored to capture two seats, North Simcoe for the newly-formed Legislative Assembly, and Niagara for the newly-formed House of Commons. In North Simcoe he went down before William Lount, afterwards member of the House of Commons for one of the Toronto Divisions, and later Judge, but in Niagara he was successful. After the change in his political views, Mr. Morrison was a faithful follower of Sir John A. Macdonald, though he styled himself a "Baldwin Reformer." He was President of the Dominion Express Co., a director of the Northern Railway, and Mayor of Toronto in 1876-7-8. He died in Toronto.

**ANTEN MILLS.**—The origin of this name is unique. Anderson and Tennant were mill owners at Hendrie, as the village was called before an office was established. To arrive at a name for the post office, and to do honor to both members of the firm, the first syllable of each man's name was taken, thus, "an" and "ten"—Anten. This may not be the only word of its kind in Canadian geography, but it is one of a very few. The village was originally named after Mr. Hendrie, a contractor who built a section of the railway which passes through the place.

**APTO.**—It was in 1857 that this office was established, but the village came into existence the year before, being founded by a pensioned soldier named Dennis Gallagher, who had served with Wellington during the Peninsular War. He named it after a town in Spain. For some time after its opening the post office was kept by Charles Stewart, about a mile from the village, but in 1859 it was moved to the then centre of civilization and Mr. Gallagher became postmaster. The name is probably from the Latin meaning, "I fit."

**ARDTREA.**—W. W. Blair, an early postmaster, named this office after his native town in Tyrone, Ireland. The derivation of the name is "ard," high or height, and "trea," after St. Trea, a virgin saint who is said to have flourished in the fifth century,—"*Trea's height.*" In Irish the "d" is omitted. Some credit the name as an honor to the late Sheriff Thomas D. McConkey, who also came from Ardtrea, in Tyrone, but the first origin given has a greater semblance of being the correct one, the authority for it being the present postmaster. The office was established in 1864.



**ARLINGTON.**—Since its establishment in 1853 this has been a sort of a perambulatory office, being first on one corner and then on another. It was named by a Mr. Kidd, who kept store at the place for some years. After he retired from business the office was moved to a neighboring corner locally known as Sisterville, the old name, however, being retained. Lately it has taken another move and is now situated a short distance from Sisterville. The office was named after Lord Arlington, a leading Minister of the Crown, and a member of the "Cabal" during the reign of Charles II., 1660-1685.

**ATHLONE.**—Named by Irish settlers from Athlone, West Meath, Ireland, and established in 1853. The name is derived from the Irish ford across the River Shannon, "ath," a ford, and "Luan," a man's name—"Luan's ford." The original town is at present chiefly noted for its horse fair, but its past history is worthy of notice, as it and its castle, the latter founded in the reign of King John, figured in the war between William III., King of England, and his father-in-law, the deposed James II. After the battle of the Boyne, William returned to England, leaving his military affairs in Ireland in charge of a Dutch general named Genkill. In June, 1691, General Genkill besieged Athlone, which was thought to be impregnable, yet he carried it in face of James' General St. Ruth, who felt so confident of his position of safety that he said, "His (Genkill's) master should have hanged him for attempting to take Athlone and my master can do the same if I lose it." After his services at Athlone, General Genkill won the battle of Aughrim and was rewarded with the title of Earl of Athlone and Aughrim.

**AVENING.**—This office was named about 1860 after a town in Gloucestershire, England, the native place of F. C. Thornbury, an early settler who built a sawmill and flour mill here. The post office, however, was not established until February 1st, 1864, a son of the founder of the village being largely instrumental in securing it.

**BALLYCROY.**—This is plainly of Irish origin, the name being given to the post office when established, in 1859, by natives of a village of the same name in the county of Mayo, Ireland. In the Irish language the word signifies "The town of the Cross." "Bally," a corruption of the Celtic word "baile," a town, and "croy," or "crois," pronounced "krus," a cross. The original town may have had some specific reason to be designated "the town of the cross," but that does

not appear to have been the case so far as the office under consideration is concerned. It was simply love for the old home.

**BANDA.**—The story of the selection of this name as given by an old settler is, that John Clemenger, the first postmaster, in seeking for a name, visited the schoolhouse of the section to inspect the maps therein. In looking them over he came across the Banda Islands, a small group of the East Indies, in the Pacific Ocean, and remarked, "there is the name, Banda it shall be." There is also a sea of the same name near the Islands. The office was established in the early sixties and since has been, to a certain extent, a wanderer. It was now in Mulmur, now in Nottawasaga, again in the former township, but to-day it is credited in the official guide as being again in Nottawasaga, hence in this county.

**BARCLAY.**—Named after George Barclay, the present postmaster. (*See Innisfil*).

**BARRIE.**—A Muskoka rhymester, who evidently knew of the troubles of the early travellers through the northern part of the Province, forewarned them of a place to rest thus:

"To the west of Lake Simcoe, a good place to tarry,  
On Kempenfelt Bay, is the nice town of Barrie."

But Barrie was not there until about 1830-31, and the post office did not come into existence until October 6th, 1835. The first settlement was a short distance east of the county town along the shore of the bay, known as early as 1797 as Kempenfelt, a name for which Governor Simcoe is responsible, he having given it in honor of Admiral Kempenfelt, who perished on board the English gunboat, *Royal George*, when it sank at Portsmouth Harbor, in the south of England. Upon visiting the settlement in 1797, Governor Simcoe determined to discard the military route between Lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay via the Coldwater trail and have a new road cut from Kempenfelt, as the settlement was called, across to Penetanguishene. Upon the Governor announcing his decision the place was given some semblance of importance, and shortly a number of settlers came in, among others one Mann, a tavernkeeper, whose name soon overshadowed that of the Admiral, and after whom the village became known as Mann's Point. The Government about this time threw all its influence into making the southern terminus of the new route between the lakes the popular point

of settlement and trans-shipment, and went so far in its efforts in this direction as to issue in 1813 a fiat, "this is a town." The place, however, did not grow very rapidly until after the war of 1812-14, when many half-pay English officers were located by the Government in the vicinity. Among others who came was a Captain Oliver, R.N., who purchased a portion of the Government reserve at the western side of the supposed town. Later, seeing the dissatisfaction in regard to the situation at Kempenfelt, Captain Oliver resold his land to the Government and purchased a greater part of the reserve at the head of the bay and had it surveyed into town lots. For the new town, which was then simply imaginary, Captain Oliver looked about for a name and adopted Barry. This was after a Captain Barry, who was in command of the 15th Regiment of York, while engaged in transporting stores to Penetanguishene, and is not, as generally supposed, after Captain Robert Barrie, who was prominent in the War of 1812-14, and who had command of the British squadron at Kingston at that time. Some good Scot evidently took a hand in the matter later, thus the ending "ie" now in use.

**BATTEAU.**—The time of the first application of this name to the post office, or rather to the village, will probably never be definitely known. In its plural form, "Batteaux," it was in use upon the arrival of the oldest inhabitant of the present day. Officially the post office should be spelled in the singular, the change having been effected by the family of William Bouchier, one of the earliest settlers, and at one time owner of a large part of the surrounding land. What appears to be the most reasonable history of the origin of the name, beyond the fact that it is the French word meaning "boat," is that in early days, when the creek which flows through the village was of greater volume than at present, its outlet at Nottawasaga Bay was a good anchorage for the batteaux of the Indians, but more particularly for those of the soldiers who passed to and fro between Fort Nottawasaga and Michillimackinac before and during the War of 1812. It might be noticed that the outlet of the creek is about half way between the Fort and the Hen-and-Chickens Islands, another point where protection could be procured against the storms of the bay, hence it was in all probability used as a place of safety.

**BAXTER.**—The location of this post office was first known by the settlers as Cob Coy, from the following circumstances: Before the day of barns the settlers erected a kind of building on posts with a roof, but

no siding, which was called a cab-ree-ho, no doubt a corruption of the French *cabaret haut*, "a high cabin." Two visitors came to the settlement, one of whom remarked to the other that he had not previously been in a place where there were so many "cob coys," misunderstanding the right name. The newly-coined expression was thought to be a joke, and was repeated so often that it became the name of the settlement. When the time came for selecting a name to be officially recognized, the majority of the people in the vicinity objected to Cob Coy and agreed upon Essa Centre, on account of the office being located near the centre of the Township of Essa. This name "Essa" is generally credited to have been that of a favorite squaw of Tecumseh, and means "shame on you." Gardiner says that since writing "Nothing but Names" he has obtained evidence that convinces him that it was the name of a city in Syria, not now on the map, but mentioned by Josephus in "Antiquities of the Jews," Book xiii., Chap. 15, Paragraph 3. Owing to the frequency with which the office was confused with Essex Centre, a new name was sought, and Baxter was selected by the postmaster, Jeremiah Baxter Coulson, after his mother's maiden name.

BEETON.—As this office came into existence upon the completion of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, in 1878, to what was then known as Clarksville, its name is comparatively modern. For many years the post office was three miles from its present location and was called Tecumseth, taken from the township of that name, the origin of which is generally supposed to be from Tecumseth or Tecumtha, the Shawnee chief, who was born in Ohio in 1769, and who allied himself with the British and was killed at the Battle of Moraviantown in 1814. In the Indian language the word signifies "a tiger crouching for its prey"; others say it means "crossing over." Gardiner, in "Nothing but Names," says, "Two vessels built at Chippewa, and called the *Nawash* and *Tecumseth*, were brought to Penetanguishene in 1819 and sunk in the harbor there. Occurring just when it did, this incident may have had something to do with the selection of the township name, for there is no probability that Chief Tecumseth ever visited Simcoe County." Although the post office was moved in 1860 to the village of Clarksville, called after Robert Clark an early settler, the old name of Tecumseth was retained, and it was not until 1878 when, through Mr. D. A. Jones, who conducted a large apiary there, that a change was effected and the present name adopted. The reason of the name is obvious.

**BELL EWART.**—There are many theories as to the origin of this name, but investigation has made it clear that it was given by one James Bell Ewart, a bank agent who lived in Dundas, but who owned considerable land in this vicinity. The name is commonly spelled "Belle," note the last "e," but sometime it receives another twist, making it one word, "Bellewart." Both of these are incorrect, as has been proven by a deed held by Mr. H. Robertson, K.C., Collingwood, by which "James Bell Ewart," of the village of "Bell Ewart," transfers two lots in the village of "Bell Ewart" to one Isabella Johnson. Here it might not be out of place to state that one of the theories regarding the name is that Mr. Ewart named the place in honor of Mrs. Johnson and himself, but this is disposed of by the foregoing and also by the fact that Mrs. Johnson's name is perpetuated by one of the streets of the village. The post office came into existence about 1853 with the extension of the railway to Lake Simcoe at that point. For some years it was an important trans-shipping point and bore in railway circles the euphonious title of "The Port of Bell Ewart." Steamers plied between this point and Barrie, Shingle Bay, Orillia and other small places around Lake Simcoe, and did an extensive business while the settlers were going in to take up the country north of the lake. Large sawmills were operated at the village; there were several goodly-sized stores, besides other places of business, and it had every prospect of becoming "port," but the extension of the railway to Allandale, and later to Barrie and Collingwood, cut short its life and in a few years its greatness had fallen away until it became an almost deserted village. Of late years it has taken on a more lively appearance, especially in the summer months, when it is visited by tourists who spend the heated term on the shores of Lake Simcoe.

**BOND HEAD.**—One of the early governors of Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head, is recalled by the name of this office. It was established in 1837 and named by Joel Flesher Robinson in honor of the Governor. Mr. Robinson was the first postmaster and for some years clerk of the Division Court, being superseded by Thomas D. McConkey, who was appointed by His Honor Judge Gowan. He was, to quote his son, "a Tory of the Tories," which accounts in a measure for the admiration which led him to perpetuate the name of Sir Francis Bond Head, whose friendship for the Family Compact is so well known to readers of Canadian history. Sir Francis was appointed by the Imperial Government in 1836 to succeed Sir John Colborne. Upon his arrival the country was on the verge of rebellion, and his action,

instead of assisting to quiet the people, had a directly opposite effect. He opened the two years in which he occupied the gubernatorial chair by appointing three prominent Reformers to the Executive, but at the same time telling them that they were in no way responsible to the people, but to him only, and that he would not accept their advice except when he should chance to feel that he needed it. The appointees resigned and the Governor at once fell in with the Family Compact, contrary to the desires and instructions of the Colonial Office, which was bent on limiting the tyranny of the Compact and securing for the people some rights. A new Council was formed exclusively Tory and the Assembly passed a vote of censure on the Governor and for the first time in the history of Upper Canada refused to vote supplies. An election followed the dissolution of the House, Sir Francis taking the stump and haranguing as a violent partisan. The supporters of the Compact were returned with a majority and soon the country was in open rebellion. In Roberts' History of Canada, Sir Francis is styled "self-confident and blundering," and in the Life of Sir John A. Macdonald by Mr. Mercer Adam he is described as a "political adventurer," "an autocrat," and a "blockhead." The latter says the qualifications which appear to have commended him to Downing Street as fit to rule a colony were, "he had written several pamphlets, extraordinary for their style, and instinct with fine frenzy," and "twice had he dashed across the South American pampas, from Buenos Ayres to the Andes, on the back of a mustang." Sanderson, in his "British Empire in the Nineteenth Century," says, "Sir Francis was admired for his reliance on the spirit of loyalty in the Province." Having persisted in supporting the Compact in its suppression of the liberties of the people until arms were resorted to and blood shed, Sir Francis Bond Head laid down the mantle which had evidently never fitted him and returned to England, taking his departure without the beating of drums or the splendor of an Alexander with which he had been received only two years before. He was succeeded by Sir George Arthur, who also fell in with the Family Compact and who hanged Lount and Matthews, to the horror of not only all opposed to those in power but of many Tories.

BRADFORD.—This recalls one of the large manufacturing towns of Yorkshire, England, and it was from it the name was taken, by Joel Flesher Robinson, one of the earliest settlers and a storekeeper who came from the English city or its vicinity. The name was given early in the thirties, hence it is found on some of the early maps, yet it was not



until 1853 that it became officially recognized by the Post Office Department. There is in Wiltshire, England, another city named Bradford, of considerable importance as a manufacturing centre, which some have thought to be the original of the Simcoe town, but in doing so they are mistaken.

**BRENTWOOD.**—In the early days the location of the post office of to-day was known to the settlers as Wiggins' Crossing, a farmer named Wiggins owning a farm at the intersection of the concession line and the railway. More settlers coming in, a well-directed effort was made to have a post office, and "Wilmott" was selected as the name by the railway company, presumably after a local lumberman. This name was in use but a short time, when the Post Office Department discovered another place of the same name already in Canada, and raised objection to its use in this instance. Feeling that Mr. F. W. Cumberland, managing director of the Northern Railway, had been a benefactor to the settlers of the district, he was asked to allow the Government to give his name to the office. He very politely declined the proffered honor and to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion suggested Brentwood, either taking the name from a suburb of London, England, or adopting it from that of a bondholder or an English director of the Company. Wilmott appears on some early maps. The office was commissioned in the early sixties.

**BURNSIDE.**—This office came into existence on August 1st, 1905. The name indicates "beside a small river," "burn" being Scotch for "small river or creek." Its name was taken from that of a farmer, John Burnside, who lives in the vicinity.

**CARLYON.**—North River, from the little river nearby, was proposed as the name for this office upon its establishment in April, 1895. Owing to there already being two offices bearing that name in the Dominion it was not available, and the Secretary of the Post Office Department, of which Sir Adolphe Caron was the head, gave the present name. It is doubtless a modification of "Caerleon," a place of much historic interest in Monmouthshire, Wales. The name "Caerleon" is believed to be a corruption of "Castrum Legionis," meaning "Camp of the (Roman) Legion."

**CASHTOWN.**—This is a modern name, and is said to have originated from the opening announcement of one Elias Leonard, a tavern-keeper of the place, that he would dispense liquors for cash only.

**CHRISTIAN ISLAND.**—There are several theories as to the origin of this name. By some it is credited to the early missionaries, who, with a desire to honor the King of France, applied part of his title, "Most Christian," to what they believed was the doorway to a newly-found country, which they would devote to Roman Catholicism. Others regard it as quite a modern appellation, this view being held to be substantiated in a degree by the fact that the name does not appear on any of the early maps, namely, Sanson's, published in 1656; Galinee's, published in 1670, from information gathered twenty or twenty-five years before; the Ducreux map, drawn in 1640 and printed in Paris in 1660; La Hontan's, issued in 1687, or that of Upper Canada, made in 1793 for Governor Simcoe. This view is further supported by Parkman, who in 1867, when writing his history, "The Jesuits in North America," speaking of the island, says: "It is one of these *now* known as Faith, Hope and Charity, or Christian." Rev. Father Jones, S.J., of Loyola College, Montreal, who has made a close study of the history of the Indians of this Province, connects the name of the island with the escape in 1649 of the panic-stricken Hurons from the warlike Iroquois after the massacres of Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, St. Louis and other villages, and believes it was adapted from the "Jesuit Relations." In support of his way of thinking he says: "The twelve Huron chiefs who pleaded so eloquently with the missionaries not to abandon, but to follow them to St. Joseph's Island, as it was commonly called by the Fathers, after the patron saint chosen for the country by Father Le Caron, assured them (here he quotes from the "Jesuit Relations") "That all the unbelievers among them who had survived had resolved to embrace the Faith, and that they, the Fathers, would make of this island an island of Christians." The names Faith, Hope and Charity are undoubtedly modern, as they appear only on late maps, and are unquestionably the workings of some intuitive mind who wished to show an acquaintance with the names, at least, of the three Christian virtues. The Hurons knew the island as "Gaboendoe," as it is found on the Ducreux map; "Ohoendoe," as La Hontan makes it, or "Ahoendoe," as given in the "Jesuit Relations." This word, which is Huron, is pronounced ya-when-doe, and by some is translated to mean, "to move from one place to another because of its advantage," and by others "an island." The post office has been in existence only a few years, mail for the inhabitants being previously sent to Penetanguishene and Lafontaine in the winter, and to Collingwood during the season of navigation.

**CHURCHILL.**—Although this post office, established about 1860, has had but the present name, the village wherein it is situated has

been known by two others. In 1833 John Gimby, an English immigrant, settled at the corner, and thus began the village which was known for some years as Gimby's Corners. In 1842 Churchill was selected, it is said, from the fact that religious services were held at the home of one Sloan, who lived upon a hill nearby. Instead of being a place where quiet and peace reigned, the village was for a time the point of congregation of so great a number of rough characters as to earn the sobriquet of "Bully's Acre." The more refined name, however, has outlived the others.

**CLOVER HILL.**—So named from a beautiful field of clover on a hill a short distance from what was then, in 1850, the village. The field was then part of the farm of Mr. John Duff, and at the present is the home of Mr. James Stoddart Duff, M.P.P. for West Simcoe.

**COLDWATER.**—In January, 1830, the Government established this office for the convenience of the military department. The name was first intended to be Colewater, in honor of John Colborne, Governor-General, 1829-1836, but the present name, taken from the river which flows through the village, known by the Indians as "Gis-si-nan-se-bing," meaning "cold river" or "cold water," soon overshadowed the former in the minds of the settlers and it was never revived. The village was on the trail between Lake Simcoe and Gloucester Bay and was therefore in early days quite a busy place. To facilitate their military operations, and also as a convenience to the settlers, the Government built a grist-mill at this point in 1828, the first in that section of the province and probably the first north of Lake Simcoe. Upon the opening of the Penetanguishene Road and the one across the Nine Mile Portage from Barrie to the Old Fort at the head of Willow Creek, the business soon fell away from Coldwater and it became a mere rural hamlet. Within the past decade, however, it has seen a change for the better. The first postmaster was a Captain James Hamilton, of His Majesty's (George IV.) 5th Regiment of Foot, known as the Fighting Fifth.

**COLGAN.**—The name of a local poet, John Colgan, a native of the place or corners, is perpetuated by this office. Colgan, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Fagan, had some reputation as a writer among the people of the southern parts of the county. No subject was too difficult for him and as a result skits appeared on various local happenings. Before his death he collected his verses and issued them

in a volume. The word "colgan" is of Irish origin and is thought to be a corruption of Clogan (a little gap), a town in King's County, Ireland.

**COLWELL.**—Previous to the building of the railway from this point to Penetang, this place was known as Harrison's Crossing, after the owner of the sawmill. The name was later changed to that now in use, after William W. Colwell, who succeeded Mr. Harrison as owner of the mill and who also owned land at the place. Mr. Colwell was well known throughout the northern part of the county, as he had real estate in Collingwood, Nottawasaga and other municipalities. He lived in Toronto, where he died a few years ago.

#### **COLLINGWOOD.**—

But Nelson, Howe and Collingwood, they held dominion on the seas,  
The sons of the Shamrock, the Thistle and the Rose.—Old Song.

This office is believed to have been originally named after Lord Collingwood, Lord Nelson's chief officer at the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21st, 1805. This is true in a sense, but in reality the name was taken from the neighboring township, in the County of Grey. This township, which was first named Alta, Alba or Atlas, as it appeared on a map printed in 1836, was afterwards re-named Collingwood upon the setting apart of several hundred acres for soldiers of the Peninsular War. According to tradition the Indians who inhabited the section of country in and about the present town of Collingwood before and for many years after the arrival of the white man in the early part of the seventeenth century, knew the shore of Iroquois Bay (See map of Upper Canada, made for Governor Simcoe, 1793), now Nottawasaga Bay, as "Qua-sing-wissin," the place of eating. This is said to be accounted for owing to the quantities of fish, no doubt bass, which were known by the Indians to flourish along the shore inside of the islands. Another story regarding the Indians' knowledge of the shore, which appears more authentic, and which has been verified by two of the most intelligent Indians of the Rama Band of Ojibwas, is that the Indians knew the shore as "Qua-sah-qua-ning," in English, "ice-driven shore and piled upon the shore in a heap." In the Ojibwa language the meaning is even more extensive, "qua-sah," "getting in with great difficulty through the water to the land, just getting to the shore," "qua-ning," "getting into the land over a heap from the water," doubtless alluding to the pulling of the canoe up out of the water over heaps of ice.

Over 150 years elapsed after the Huron tribes were driven out of this section by the implacable Iroquois before settlers arrived to hew homes out of the forest which covered the site of the present town of Collingwood and the surrounding country. At first they came very slowly, and it was not until the opening years of the last century that there was any great movement to the northern part of the present county of Simcoe. About the early thirties the township was surveyed and the site of Collingwood was named Hen-and-Chickens, on account of the number of small islands off the shore. The largest of the group was named White Spruce, which appears on maps as late as 1851. This name was little used and soon lost sight of. In 1904 this island was re-christened Birnie Island, after John Birnie, K.C., who secured a patent for it from the Department of Crown Lands, at Toronto. Between 1848 and 1852 a little settlement had formed on the shore, at a most exposed point, to the east of the business centre of the town of to-day, and took upon itself the name of Hurontario, from the main or Hurontario Street (Huron, name applied to Indians by the French owing to their unkempt hair and o-no-ta-ri-io, Indian meaning "handsome lake"), which extends from the Georgian Bay, in a sense part of Lake Huron, to Lake Ontario. During the next two years the proposition to build a railway from Toronto to Collingwood assumed definite form, and Mr. F. W. Cumberland, Sheriff B. W. Smith, and others interested in the construction of the Northern Railway, came north to locate a terminus for the new line. Upon reaching here in January, 1852, by way of the Scotch Corners, now Duntroon, they were met by the residents of the village of Hurontario, among others Mr. D. E. Buist, and made an inspection of the Hen-and-Chickens Harbor. Upon returning from the trip of inspection they drove across the ice on Sheephead Bay, so known in early days on account of the great quantities of sheephead variety of fish caught there, now commonly called "the Bend." While stopping at a rock which peered above the deep snow, the discussion turned to the name of the new town, for it was to be a town within a few weeks owing to its being selected as a terminus of the contemplated railway. Mr. Cumberland suggested Victoria in honor of our late lamented Queen, others advocated retaining the name Hen-and-Chickens, which met with little favor, while Mr. Buist offered the name Collingwood Harbor, which, in view of the township of that name being so close by, was thought to be fitting and was thereupon selected, Mr. Cumberland withdrawing his suggestion. The word "Harbor" was used more or less until the incorporation of the town on January 1st, 1858, when it was dropped. Turning briefly to Lord Collingwood, we find that he was born in 1750

and died in 1810. He went to sea at the early age of eleven years, served during the revolution of the American colonies, and was at the naval battles of Cape St. Vincent and Trafalgar. At the latter he assumed command upon the death of Nelson and finished the victory over the French fleet. For his services on that occasion he was rewarded with a peerage and a pension of two thousand pounds.

The post office was established in 18<sup>th</sup> but even before that there was an irregular office kept in a store at the village of Hurontario, the mail being brought in by way of the Scotch Corners.

**COOKSTOWN.**—Perry's Corners, after John Perry, a settler who came in 1826, was the first name applied to this place. A few years later a tavern was opened by one Dixon, and the early name was discarded for that of the dispenser of beverages. This continued until 1847, when the present name was given by Hon. W. B. Robinson, M.P., in honor of a settler, Thomas Cooke, who was born in the County of Cavan, Ireland, and who moved to Perry's Corners in 1831. On Henry Creswicke's map of 1856 the name appears as two distinct words, thus, Cooks Town.

**CONNOR.**—Irish settlers from Connor, in Antrim, Ireland, named this office. In Irish this name is written Condeire, or Condaire, meaning "the oak wood in which dogs and she wolves used to dwell." The office was established February 1st, 1865.

**COULSON.**—The name of this office is adapted from that of James Coulson, who owned and operated mills in the village for some years.

**CRAIGHURST.**—This was originally known as Morrison's Corners, after a tavern-keeper, John Morrison, who conducted a hotel known as "Ordnance Arms" on the Penetanguishene Road. Upon rising to the dignity of a post office, about 1834, the name was changed to that of one of the nearby townships, namely Flos, a name which is said to have been adapted from that of one of three lap-dogs belonging to Lady Sarah Maitland, wife of Peregrine Maitland, Governor-General of Canada, 1818-1828. This office was some distance from the present village, being about a quarter of a mile from Hillsdale of to-day. Some years later another change was made, when the name now in use came into existence. This was given by Hon. James Patton, who owned a hundred acres of land, south half of Lot 40, on the south-east side of



the settlement, a part of which he laid out in village lots. The name of Mr. Patton's planned village was given in honor of Squire John Craig, the first postmaster. Hon. James Patton was born in Prescott, in 1824, and practised law in Barrie for many years. In 1852 he founded the *Barrie Herald*, and in 1855 the *Upper Canada Law Journal*. When the Legislative Council, now the Senate, was made an elective body in 1856, and Upper and Lower Canada mapped out into forty-eight electoral divisions with twelve members elected every two years, Mr. Patton was one of the six returned that year for what is now Ontario, and the first representative of the group of counties consisting of Grey, Bruce and North Simcoe, known as the Saugeen Division. In 1862 he became a member of the Cartier-Macdonald Ministry, with a seat in the Executive Council as Solicitor-General for Upper Canada, but upon seeking re-election was defeated by Hon. John McMurchy, and with the fall of the Government, a few weeks later, retired to private life. In 1860 he was Chancellor of the Toronto University, and in 1881 was appointed Collector of Customs at Toronto. Mr. Craig settled at Craighurst in 1821.

**CREIGHTON.**—Capt. Creighton, who lived in the neighborhood for many years, is supposed to be honored by this office being named after him. It was commissioned in 1868.

**CRAIGVALE.**—Since its inception in 1860 this office has been known as at present, the name being given in honor of John Craig, an early settler and saw-mill owner, who was Justice of the Peace and also Clerk of the Division Court which sat there. His son, Arthur Craig, was prominent in municipal circles for some years, being Warden of the County, and later Treasurer of the same, holding the latter office at the time of his death in June, 1905.

**CREEMORE.**—Upon a request of a resident of the village, Senator J. R. Gowan, Simcoe's Grand Old Man, as he is often rightly termed, selected this name. Knowing the love of the sons of Auld Scotia for their ain, he selected two words of their language, "cree mohr," meaning a "big heart." The office was established in 1854, but the village was founded some years before.

**CROSSLAND.**—In this office the name of the first postmaster, Henry Crossland, is placed in the official category of the Postal Department at Ottawa.

**CROWN HILL.**—The location is responsible for the name of this post office. It is situated on a range of hills which extend for a distance of two or three miles across the Township of Oro, and has the appearance of being on the crown or top of the same. The name was suggested by a debating society, and agreed to by those living in the neighborhood, among whom were the late Sheriff Drury, his brothers William and Thomas, and Jonathan Sissons, county jailer at Barrie.

**CUNDLES.**—Before the establishment of this post office the place was known as Cundle's School, one Thomas Cundle, a resident and land-owner, having largely interested himself in securing the educational institution. In 1904, when the office was commissioned, Mr. Cundle was again honored by the adoption of his name.

**DALSTON.**—This office took its name from Dalston, a suburb of London, England, the native town of Henry Augustus Clifford, the first postmaster. Mr. Clifford was prominent in educational matters in the county for some years, being Superintendent of Schools for Oro Township until 1846, and occupying the position of District Superintendent of Common Schools until 1849. For many years prior to the issuing of the commission, in 1885, the village was known as White's Corners, after Peter White, J.P., an early settler.

**DEERHURST.**—The first postmaster of this office, who was named Walker, desired to have it known as Walkerville, but objections being raised, the present name was adopted. It probably alludes to the habitation of deer in the nearby woods.

**DE GRASSI POINT.**—Several theories as to the origin of this name are more or less credited, but only two have any semblance of being correct. One of these is to the effect that the point was originally known as "Grassy Point," because of there being four or five acres of ground covered with grass extending to the water's edge. In support of this it is said, and history corroborates the statement, that this special feature of the place was well known, as it was the rendezvous of fur traders and voyageurs passing up and down Lake Simcoe, this being then the chief route to the almost unknown and impenetrable North-West. Proceeding from this point to the head of Kempenfelt Bay (see Barrie), the travellers went on by the Nine-mile Portage, Willow Creek and Nottawasaga River to the

Upper Lakes. The other theory credits the origin of the name, at least that now in use, to a family named De Grassi who resided in Toronto about the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion. One of the family, Alfio, was more or less identified with municipal politics, and was also active in Masonic circles. In 1865 he was District Deputy for the Toronto Masonic district, which at that time included the County of Simcoe. The De Grassi family never lived at the place that now bears their name, but members of it, particularly Alfio, visited thereabouts, for hunting and fishing. The most reasonable conclusion is that the present name is the outcome of a combination of the above circumstances.

#### DUNEDIN.—

Till the oak that fell last winter,  
Shall uprear its shattered stem,  
Wives and mothers of Dunedin,  
Ye may look in vain for them.

—Lord Ayton.

In this we have the early name of Edinboro' inscribed upon the postal list of the County of Simcoe. In early days the site of the present village was known as Bowerman's Hollow or Settlement, after a family of that name, one of whom built the first grist-mill in the Township of Nottawasaga. When official recognition was taken of the settlement, Mr. John J. Carruthers, the first postmaster, suggested Dunedin, which was agreed to by the residents and accepted by the postal authorities. Mr. Carruthers adopted the name from that of a town in New Zealand which he had visited, and which in turn was, doubtless, named by sons of Auld Scotia after their capital city. Translated into English the name means "Edward's fortress," "dun," a fortified rock or hill, and "Edin," a corruption of Edward.

DUNTROON.—This name is a combination of two Gaelic words, "dun," a hill, and "troon," a promontory. The country surrounding this post office was settled in the thirties of last century by immigrants from Islay and Argyleshire. For a few years it was known simply as the "Corners," but as the settlers came in in large numbers the word "Scotch" was soon added. It was later known as McNab's Corners, after a tavern-keeper who followed the settlers. Yet later the name was changed by John Livingstone to Bomore, meaning "Big Cow," after his native village in Islay. Upon the arrival of the late Rev. John Campbell, the first Presbyterian minister stationed in the Town-

ship of Nottawasaga, the name underwent another change, this time to the present appellation, Duntroon, after his native village in Argyleshire, Scotland. The first office, Scotch Corners, was officially opened in 1836, when Mr. Angus Campbell was appointed postmaster. He was a Highland Scotchman who was well versed in Gaelic but could speak little English, and it is said any mail matter not addressed in his native language was left in a small box to be hunted out by the owners when called for, Mr. Campbell's only directions being, "Noo, just help yersel', and dinna tak' mair nor ye can read."

**DUNKERRON.**—This is named after a town in King's County, Ireland, and was adopted upon the suggestion of the late Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P. for South Simcoe, who is credited with selecting it to please an Irish settler, a native of the Irish town of the same name. It is more probable that it was named in honor of the Governor-General at the time the office was opened, Lord Lansdowne, Baron of Dunkerron.

**EADY.**—The name of this office was given in honor of Miss Edith Kent, now Mrs. John Walker, the first maiden lady of the place. She is now in her eightieth year and still resides in the village. The office was established in 1884.

**EDGAR.**—The name of this office is by some derived from that of an early King of England, by others it is said the name was given arbitrarily by the Government, as the people had no special choice, but the correct origin is the name of an early settler, John Edgar. It was established in 1832. Richardson's Corners, also after an early settler, was the first name of the place. The first office in the township of Oro was named Oro after the township, and was situated almost exactly in its centre. This office was later moved a mile west, retaining the old name. Yet later it was again moved, this time two miles further west, when the name was discarded, Edgar being substituted therefor.

**EGBERT.**—Owing to the physical conditions this place was for many years known locally as Mudtown, but upon assuming the dignity of a place in the postal list of the county a more polished name was thought to be required. At this juncture the loyalty of the settlers to an old line of English kings prevailed and the name of King Egbert was selected. Egbert was of the House of Cedric and ascended the throne of Wessex in A.D. 802, and reigned for thirty-five years.

During Egbert's time Wessex rose to power, the King bringing all the English kingdoms, together with the Welsh, both of Cornwall and what is now called Wales, more or less under subjection. He became King of all the Saxons and Jutes and Lord of the East Angles, Mercians and Northumbrians and by some historians is said to have been the first King who was able to call himself King of the English. He died in 837 A.D.

**ELLIOTT'S CORNERS.**—This office takes its name from the first postmaster, James Elliott.

**ELMGROVE.**—Like Elmvale, this place was locally known as Elm Flats for some years, owing to the land being largely timbered with elm. As in the case of the former village, the word "flats" proved objectionable to the æsthetic taste of the people, and the word "grove" was substituted.

**ELMVALE.**—For many years the country surrounding this place was known as the Elm Flats on account of the low-lying land, which was largely timbered with elm. The village took the same name, but the more euphonistic word "vale" took the fancy of the people and it was substituted for "Flats." An attempt was made to change the name to Saurin by a constructing engineer on the Penetang Railway, James Saurin Murray, but the villagers objected to the proposition. On Dickenson's map of the county, 1878, Saurin appears for this place, but it was never adopted for the post office.

**ENNIS.**—This name is taken from a town in Clare County, Ireland, and was given to this office by early settlers after their home in the Emerald Isle. In the Irish language the word "inis," or "ennis," has two meanings, "an island" and "a meadow along a river." The original town is situated upon the bank of the River Fergus.

**EVERETT.**—This office was named by Thomas Gordon, a storekeeper, after his father's native place in England. It was at first situated on lot 10, Con. 7, Township of Tossorontio, but upon the arrival of the railway in 1878 it was moved about two miles west to its present location.

**FAIR VALLEY.**—In 1879 this office was named by R. C. Hipwell, from the physical conditions surrounding. Previous to being estab-

lished a post office under the present name, the place had several appellations. Captain Elmer Steele, who settled in Medonte in 1832, and who sat for Simcoe in the old Canadian Assembly, 1841-44, named the corner a short distance from the post office of to-day Purbrook, after his native place in Gloucestershire, England. It was later known as St. George's, from the church situated there.

**FENNELLS.**—This office recalls an early settler, Joseph Fennell, a native of Conna, Kilkenny, Ireland, after whom it was named. Mr. Fennell was prominent in municipal affairs, being Reeve of West Gwillimbury and a member of the County Council.

**FERGUSONVALE.**—This settlement was first known as Cumming's Corners after John Cumming, who settled there in 1843. In 1868 it was thought desirable that a post office should be established at the corners. John W. Ferguson interested himself in circulating a petition asking the Government for the office and was rewarded by its being named after him.

**FESSERTON.**—Named after a friend by Baron von Hugel, who was born in Mayence, Germany, and who at one time was President of the Midland Railway. The locality was long known, before the days of the Midland Railway, as Bush's Point, after a settler of that name.

**FINTONA.**—This office is another of those in the southern part of the county which owe their name to the Irish settlers. It is called after a village in Tyrone, Ireland. In Irish it is called, Fionn-Tamhuach, pronounced Fintowna, meaning "a fair colored field."

**FOXMEAD.**—This name is the result of a combination of the names of two early settlers, John Fox and J. Mead, the object being to please the most interested ones.

**GIBSON.**—This name is that of the first postmaster, William Gibson.

**GILCHRIST.**—A family of early settlers, one of whom, Henry Gilchrist, was the first postmaster, is credited with having given the name to this office. Some of his descendants live in the vicinity at the present day.

**GILFORD.**—This office was named in 1863 by an early settler, Thomas MacConchy, after the town of Gilford, County of Down, Ireland. Mr. MacConchy had mills and other business interests at the village he named.

**GLENCAIRN.**—

The bridegroom may forget the bride,  
Was made his wife yestreen ;  
The monarch may forget the crown  
That on his head an hour has been ,  
The mother may forget the child  
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee ;  
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,  
An' a' that thou hast done for me.—Burns.

Upon reaching the site of this village, about the middle years of last century, Mr. Marshall N. Stephens found it known as "the hog's back," from a nearby hill thought to have a porcine resemblance, lying between two streams, the Mad River and Walker's Creek, flowing side by side, one being twenty feet higher than the other. He disliked the appellation and re-named the locality, which is hilly, Engedi (the fountain of the kid), taking the name from the fortress in the wilderness in which David sought safety from Saul and in which he afterwards had Saul at his mercy, but permitted him to leave unharmed. In 1865, when the office was established, it was desired to have a more popular name, and Mr. Stephens suggested Marshalltown, but owing to there being already such a place in the list of Canadian post offices, the Department raised objections and it was discarded. Mr. Angus Morrison (see Angus), stepped into the breach and named the office Glencairn (glen, a space between hills, and cairn, a monumental pile of stones generally of conical shape), after James, Earl of Glencairn, a benefactor of Scotland's bard, Burns. The Earl of Glencairn takes his title from the parish of Glencairn, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

**GLEN HURON.**—This is one of the early names of the northern part of the county. Its origin is obvious, being from the glen through which the Mad River rushes on its way to Nottawasaga Bay, some twenty miles further east, and an adaptation of the name of a tribe of Indians who in early days occupied the greater part of the County of Simcoe. The name is believed to have been given by Mr. Hugh M. Frame, an uncle of the late W. J. Frame, Police Magistrate of the Town of Collingwood, a graduate of a Scotch University and a lover of Indian folk lore.



**GOWAN.**—The name was given to this office by the late F. W. Cumberland, Managing Director of the Northern Railway, as a compliment to his friend Judge (now Hon. Senator) James Robert Gowan, who now resides in Barrie. Senator Gowan was born in Cahore, Wexford County, Ireland, in 1815. He was called to the Bar in Toronto in 1839, and in 1843 appointed Judge of the Judicial District of Simcoe, the largest in Upper Canada. In 1851 he was appointed one of three judges necessary under "the act for assimilating the Canadian Law of Probate and Administration to that of England." In 1858 he assisted in the consolidation of the Statutes, in 1869 in the consolidation of the Criminal Law, and in 1876 in the consolidation of the Statute Law of Ontario. In 1871 he was a member of a commission to inquire into the constitution and jurisdiction of the several Courts of Law and Equity, and in 1873 was appointed on the commission to investigate the Huntingdon charges, otherwise known as the Canadian Pacific Scandal. In 1883 he retired from the Bench after forty years' service and in 1885 was called to the Senate by Sir John A. Macdonald. In the Senate he occupied the position of Chairman of the Divorce Committee for many years. In 1905 Senator Gowan was included in King Edward's birthday honor list, being made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (K.C.M.G.).

**GRENFEL.**—In response to a petition circulated by the village schoolmaster, a Mr. McIntosh, this office was opened in the early seventies. Mr. McIntosh suggested the name now in use, after a place in Scotland. He was the first postmaster.

**GUTHRIE.**—In this office the name of Duncan Guthrie, an early settler, is handed down to posterity.

**HAMLET.**—When a post office was about to be commissioned here this name was suggested by a resident and recommended to the postal authorities by W. H. Bennett, M.P. for East Simcoe. It is named after Shakespeare's well-known character, Hamlet, a Prince of Denmark, nephew of King Claudius, who loved Ophelia, but feeling it his duty to avenge his father's death, abandoned the idea of marriage. He treated Ophelia so strangely that she went mad and while picking flowers from a brook fell into the water and was drowned. Hamlet afterwards died from a stab by a poisoned rapier received in a friendly contest with foils.

**HAMPSHIRE MILLS.**—The name of this office was taken from Hampshire, England, whence came William Leef, a pensioner of the British Army and the first postmaster of this place.

**HAWKESTONE.**—In early days the site of the present village was known as Hodge's Landing, one Richard Hodge owning land in the vicinity. At that time the place was one of the competing points for the trade in and out of the country now known as the Townships of Oro and Medonte. Owing to the large numbers of immigrants who went "up country" at that time, the "Landing" was a lively place, but its glory soon faded, Barrie and Orillia securing the business. In 1846 a post office was commissioned and the present name adopted on the suggestion of Hon. James Patton, of Barrie (see Craighurst), in honor of A. B. Hawke, Chief Immigrant Agent for Upper Canada. Mr. Patton was a prominent Conservative of the early sixties. He represented the Saugeen Division, which included the counties of Bruce and Grey and the North Riding of Simcoe, in the Legislative Council prior to 1862, when, although appointed Solicitor-General, he was defeated in a three-cornered contest by Hon. John McMurich by a majority of 750.

**HILLSDALE.**—A tavernkeeper, Alexander Hill, was prominent at this place at the time the office was established, and his name was adopted, the affix being simply to make it more euphonistic. It is near the site of the early post office, Flos, which, after being moved several miles, was finally blotted from the map, Craighurst taking its place.

**HOLLY.**—Named by the late W. C. Little, M.P., for South Simcoe, after a village in Gloucestershire, England, of which shire he was a native.

**HOBART.**—Alexander Fowler, a farmer and also a storekeeper on a small scale, was the most active spirit in securing the establishment of the original office bearing this name. Being three miles from a mail distributing centre, he filed an application with the Post Office Department at Ottawa for a new office, suggesting Fowler's Corners as a name for the same. The request for the office was complied with, but the suggested name was passed over, Hobart being substituted therefor. No explanation of the origin of the name was given, but it was probably in honor of Lord Hobart, Colonial Secretary of the Imperial Government in the early years of the nineteenth century. Some years prior

to the commission of this office, issued in 1878, a little settlement had formed two miles distant around a grist-mill built by one Langman. This was known as Langman's Mills, and in later years became of greater importance than Hobart, and upon the application of a Mr. Kennedy, who purchased the mills after Mr. Langman's death, the Post Office Department moved the office thereto, but retained the original name.

**INNISFIL.**—This office takes its name from the township in which it is situated and comes from Innisfail, a poetical name for Ireland. The name is doubtless a corruption of Innis-fallen, from Inis-Faith-lenn (Fahlen), the island of Faithlenn, a man's name. This was the first post office in the township, and served the settlers for miles around for many years. In 1834 some land-owners attempted to establish a town named Innisfallen on Shingle Bay, Lake Simcoe, but the project failed. On February 1st, 1906, the name of this office was changed to Barclay, after George Barclay, the present post-master. This change was made owing to the similarity of Innisfil with Innisfail, a town in Alberta.

**IVY.**—Upon petition of the people of the vicinity this office was established in 1858. It was suggested that it be named Lakeview, from its situation near a little lake on the farm of one of the pioneers and petitioners, but there already being an office of that name the postal authorities declined the suggestion and gave the name now in use, apparently for no other reason than that it fits in with Holly and Vine, two neighboring post offices.

**JACK'S LAKE.**—This place was originally known as "Jacques" Lake, but by common use the French word, meaning James, was transformed into the Anglo-Saxon, Jack. The name was that of an aged Indian, John Jacques, who lived on the shores of the lake for many years, and was adopted for the post office by an informal vote of the people.

**JARRATT'S CORNERS.**—This office takes its name from an early settler, Charles Jarratt, a native of Kent County, England. Mr. Jarratt settled there in 1831 and was a general merchant in later years. He was also a member of the council of the Township of Oro for several years and a Justice of the Peace. The office was established in the early fifties.

**KEENANVILLE.**—This was named after an early settler, Robert Keenan, a native of Ireland, and was established in 1855. Mr. Keenan was prominent in municipal affairs. In 1846 he was elected a member of the County Council, in which he served for several years.

**KILLYLEAGH.**—A pioneer of the Township of Innisfil, James Scroggie, named this office after his native village, Killyleigh, County of Down, Ireland. It was proposed by the people of the vicinity that the office should be named Scroggietown or Scroggieville, but Mr. Scroggie thought the name too cumbersome and suggested Killyleigh. In Irish its meaning is, kill-church, leigh-field, "the church of the field."

**LAFONTAINE.**—On the migration of the French from Quebec, 1837-40, to Tiny Township, this place came into existence and was known as St. Croix, from the numerous crosses erected here and there throughout the township by Rev. Father Hennepin. A few years later this name was discarded, and that now in use adopted in honor of Hon. Louis Hypolite Lafontaine, a man who was prominent in the years preceding and following the Rebellion of 1837. Mr. Lafontaine was a son of Antoine Menard Lafontaine, who had been a member of the Parliament of Lower Canada from 1796 to 1804, and was born at Boucherville in 1807. He early achieved distinction at the bar. Upon entering politics he was a follower of Papineau, but soon became his rival. During the troubles of 1837 they both fled the country to escape warrants of high treason, but Lafontaine soon returned, having committed no overt act. He soon became the leader of the Reform party, and in 1842 reached the goal of his political ambition by being called to the Cabinet as Attorney-General, East, but with his colleague in the leadership of the Government, Hon. Robert Baldwin, resigned the following year, owing to the Governor-General, Sir Charles Metcalfe, violating what they believed to be a fundamental principle of responsible government, by making appointments to office without the consent of his Ministers. Mr. Lafontaine remained in opposition until 1848, when the Reformers swept the country, the issue being the Rebellion Losses Bill. Upon the defeat of the Tories he was, with Mr. Baldwin, called upon to lead the Government forces, which position he held until 1851. In 1853 he was elevated to the Chief Justiceship of Lower Canada. In 1854 he was created a baronet of the United Kingdom. Mr. Lafontaine is described as a man of commanding appearance, not an eloquent speaker, but a close and cogent reasoner.

He obtained many of his ideas from books, and frequently showed a passion for the impracticable in politics. He was an honorable opponent, but his resentments were as undying as his attachments. While on the bench he lent lustre and efficiency to the judiciary.

**LANGMAN.**—After Richard Langman, an early settler and first postmaster.

**LAWSON.**—After Walter Lawson, the first postmaster.

**LEFAIVE'S CORNERS.**—This office was named after a family who resided in the vicinity.

**LEFROY.**—This office is one of those which came into existence with the building of the Northern Railway. It was named after General Sir John Henry Lefroy, who had charge of the magnetical observatory at Toronto in 1851-53. He afterwards served in Tasmania and Bermuda. The office was commissioned early in 1854.

**LISLE.**—Before the present name was adopted this place was first locally known as Forestlea, a name given by a Mr. Thomas Crosbie, who owned land in the vicinity. After the railway was built, in 1878, the name was changed to New Airlie, but this was soon found confusing owing to the village of Airlie being only a short distance away. About this time it was thought desirable to have a post office, and Messrs. Wilmott, Harrison & Hatton, lumbermen, moved in that direction with success. Again a name was wanted, when a Miss Wilmott came to the rescue with "Lisle," taken from a popular song of the day, "Annie Lisle," the chorus of which is as follows:

"Wave willows, murmur waters,  
Gentle sunbeams smile,  
Earthly music cannot waken  
Lovely Annie Lisle."

**LOVERING.**—This office got its name from W. D. Lovering, a farmer on whose farm the first office was located. He now resides in Coldwater.

**LORETTO.**—The name of this office recalls "Our Lady of Loretto," in honor of whom the office was designated. The original name is that of an Italian town, a mecca for Roman Catholic pilgrims,

famous for its Holy House. According to the legend the Holy House is the identical house in which our Saviour was born, having been carried from Nazareth by angels upon being threatened with destruction by the Turks. It contains the shrine of Loreto (only one "t" in original spelling), and is noted for its miraculous cures. The post office was named by a shoemaker, P. D. Kelly, and was commissioned in 1864.

**MAIR'S MILLS.**—With this office there has been a case of "off agin, on agin, gone agin," there being a commissioned office, then it was closed, and again re-opened. For many years the village was known as Kirkville, after the late Robert Kirk, who operated a flour and saw mill on the bank of Silver Creek, which flows through the hamlet on its way to the Georgian Bay, a few miles distant. The first and second established offices bore that name, but the third was given the present name after John Mair, son-in-law of Mr. Kirk, who was largely instrumental in having it re-opened, and who operated a flour mill there for several years, conducting the duties of postmaster in conjunction therewith.

**MAPLE VALLEY.**—This office has had several locations, but all within a small radius. It was first in the Township of Osprey, County of Grey, being established in 1850 under the name of that township, so called after a ship of the British Navy in the early part of the nineteenth century. At that time it was the only office between Melancthon Station and Duntroon and served the people of Dunedin, Honeywood, and for miles around. After being moved to and fro among the farmers for some time, the office became located finally in the Township of Nottawasaga, County of Simcoe, Joseph Dick being appointed postmaster. Mr. Dick had moved from Maple, York County, and upon his request the name "Osprey" was discarded and that of his old home adopted. The word "Valley" was added simply to distinguish this office from the former.

**MARCHMONT.**—Between 1833 and 1836 one W. O. Hume settled at this place and gave it the name of his ancestral home in the Emerald Isle. The office was commissioned on October 1st, 1861.

**MIDHURST.**—In 1830 one George Oliver received from the Government a free grant of two hundred acres, Lot 12, Con. 4, Town-

ship of Vespra, including a water power, on condition that he would build a grist-mill and a sawmill. In conjunction with a Thomas Mairs he did so, and the place became known as Oliver's Mills. It was also known as Vespra Mills from the township in which it was situated, the name of which is presumably from the Latin vesper, "evening." In 1841, Mr. H. R. A. Boys, late Treasurer of the County of Simcoe, purchased the property from Mr. Oliver, who had been conducting the mills alone for some time, Mr. Mairs having retired. Mr. Boys continued the milling business, and in addition erected a distillery, at which whiskey was dispensed at the moderate figure of twenty-five cents per gallon. He suggested naming the place Muggleton, probably having in mind the "corporate town" referred to in the annals of the Pickwick Club as "an ancient and loyal borough, mingling a zealous advocacy of Christian principles with a devoted attachment to commercial rights." The people objected to the proposed change and continued to use Oliver's Mills until 1864, when the post office was opened as Midhurst, after a small town in England, the name being given by the postal authorities, probably the inspector of the division, at that time the late Mr. Sweatman.

MIDLAND.—Munday's Bay, so called after two landowners, Israel and Asher Munday, who lived in the vicinity, was the first name applied to the site of the town of to-day. Some years after this name had become of general use one of the great family of Smiths, John by name, a commissariat of the garrison stationed at Penetanguishene, referred to the place as Midland, meaning that it was about half way between Penetanguishene and Victoria Harbor, the two principal places on the bay at that time. In 1872 the Midland Railway arrived, when Heydale, one of the builders of that road, with several others formally named the town Midland, painting the words "Midland Harbor" on a large boulder at the west side of the bay in the hope of giving it permanency. The painted sign has since been obliterated, but the name Midland yet stands. An attempt was made by some to call the place Midland City, but the unfitness of the latter part of the name was so obvious that it was dropped.

MINESING.—This name is generally supposed to be of Ojibwa origin and to mean "Happy Water," but upon consultation with some intellectual members of that tribe it has been learned that they know it as meaning "an island." The story of the application of the name to the post office under consideration, as told by one of the oldest



settlers, is interesting. An earlier settler than our informant, Colin McDougall, brother of the Rev. John McDougall, the pioneer missionary of the Methodist Church in the North-West, made frequent visits to the Indians who lived on the banks of the Nottawasaga River. By them he was told that the place at which he lived was *Min-is-sing*, in English "an island," and that it was at one time surrounded by water. Mr. McDougall accepted the statements of his dusky friends, and applied the name to the settlement, and it was continued until the establishment of the post office, about 1864, when it became the official name. The physical features of the village would strongly indicate that the Indians were correct in regard thereto. It is situated about the centre of a hill, several miles in circumference, surrounded by what is locally known as *Minesing Flats*, the soil of which is composed largely of shells, and having many indications of at one time having been the bottom of a lake. The original spelling was "*Minising*," but the postal authorities changed it to "*Minesing*."

**MINNICOGANASHENE.**—The association of the Indians with this part of the Province, and the pleasing intonation of their language, is shown by this name. Originally it was "*Min-nie-kaig-nan-shene*," meaning "the place of the blueberry." It is a summer office and is locally known as *Minnacog*.

**MITCHELL SQUARE.**—The history of this office is brief. The name was given by the first postmaster, William Mitchell, a native of Scotland, who was born in 1832 and came to the County of Simcoe in 1865. The affix was given to distinguish it from the town of Mitchell in the County of Perth.

**MOONSTONE.**—Early settlers knew this place for years as *Medonte*, the name having been taken from the township in which it is situated, the word being from the Delaware language, meaning "evil spirit." In Ojibwa the word "*Madonon*" means "I carry on my back," which Mr. H. F. Gardiner, in "*Nothing but Names*," says he thinks connects the name with an old portage, which is quite probable, as a trail between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay passed through the township. In the eighties the present name was substituted for that which had served so long. The new appellation was adopted in honor of Edmund Moon, an old settler, and the first postmaster, the affix alluding to the stony nature of the country surrounding. Mr. Moon was a Justice of the Peace until his death.

**MT. ST. LOUIS.**—This name is one of the earliest in the County of Simcoe, dating from the arrival of the French in the early years of the seventeenth century. In the village of to-day the name is perpetuated, but the site of the place under consideration is not that of the early St. Louis, as was supposed by the French missionaries who gave the name. That of to-day is situated on the St. Louis ridge, at an elevation of about five hundred feet above the Georgian Bay, hence the addition of the word "Mount." The original St. Louis was nearer the shores of the Georgian Bay and not far from the site of the present town of Midland. It was a palisaded village of the Hurons which in March, 1649, was attacked by the Iroquois. After being twice repulsed the besiegers returned to the attack and succeeded in cutting the defences. Upon entering they captured the survivors, including the two Jesuit priests, Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalemant. The village was recaptured by the Hurons and again taken by the Iroquois, who took summary vengeance on the prisoners captured in the raid. Brébeuf and Lalemant were horribly tortured, the former being finally placed beyond misery by a blow from a hatchet, while the latter succumbed to the most brutal treatment after seventeen hours' suffering. The name was originally given in honor of the French King, Louis XIII.

**NANTYR.**—This is one of the few Welsh names in the County of Simcoe. It is taken from the family home of the Tyrwhitts of Nantyr Hall, Denbighshire, Wales. The name was applied to the post office in question by the late Col. Richard Tyrwhitt, who was born in the County of Simcoe in 1844, and who as a Conservative represented South Simcoe in the House of Commons continuously from 1882 until his death on June 22nd, 1900. Col. Tyrwhitt saw active service on the Niagara frontier in 1866 and in the North-West in 1885. In 1886 he was in command of the Canadian Wimbledon team, and in 1897 was present at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, on the invitation of the Department of Militia. In politics he gained prominence by being one of the "noble thirteen" who in 1889 voted against the Jesuits Estate Bill and by his strong opposition to interference by the Dominion Government with the Manitoba School Act of 1890. He was an advocate of secular schools, and was an Imperial Federationist.

**NEW FLOS.**—Before the establishment of a post office this place was known as Briggs' Corners, after a family of settlers who still reside there. The present name was taken from the township, which is said

to have been named after one of three pet dogs, Flos, Tiny and Tay, belonging to Lady Sarah Maitland, wife of Sir Peregrine Maitland, Governor-General of Canada, 1818-1828. He died in 1854 and his wife in 1873.

**NEW LOWELL.**—This village is a monument in a degree to the blighted hopes of some of the early men of its commercial life. It was first called Kinburn during the years of the Crimean War, 1854-56, after a Russian citadel near the mouth of the Dnieper River, taken by the allied English and French armies on October 15th, 1855. In 1858 Jacques, Hay & Co. built a turning factory at the place. To purchase machinery for this three men were sent to Lowell, Mass. These were so taken with the New England town that they decided to perpetuate its name by giving it to their new home in Ontario, believing it was the nucleus of another Lowell. That it was not has been amply demonstrated, as it is but little larger to-day than it was half a century ago.

**NEWTON ROBINSON.**—Names have been bountifully bestowed upon this village. Commencing with Latimer's Corners, after a family of settlers, it soon took on Springville, no particular reason being assigned for the new appellation. Later it was changed to Newtown Robinson, after a town in the County of Tyrone, Ireland, and the family of Hon. William Benjamin Robinson. Mr. Robinson was prominent in the political affairs of the County of Simcoe from 1828 until about 1858. At the first election after Simcoe had been set apart as a separate constituency for Parliamentary purposes, held in July, 1828, he was the candidate of the Family Compact, and was opposed and defeated by John Cawthra, of Newmarket, by nine votes. In 1830 he defeated Mr. Cawthra, and in 1834, with Samuel Lount as his colleague, was again elected. In 1836 Mr. Robinson was once more returned, with a Mr. Wickens as his colleague, Mr. Lount being defeated upon this occasion. At the first election for the united provinces, in 1841, Mr. Robinson was defeated by Capt. Elmer Steele, of Medonte. At the general election in 1844 he was again successful, defeating Mr. Wellesley Ritchie, as he was also at a bye-election shortly after, made necessary owing to his acceptance of the Inspector-Generalship in the new Cabinet. This time he was opposed by William Hume Blake, father of Hon. Edward Blake. In 1848 he was returned by acclamation, and in 1851 was opposed by an old-time ally, one Alfred Willson, of Bell Ewart, but was elected by a majority of 759. Before the next general election, which took place in 1854, this county was divided into the

north and south ridings for electoral purposes. Mr. Robinson remained with the southern riding, in which he was elected by acclamation. In 1857 he made his last appeal to the electors of the south riding of this county, when he suffered defeat by Thomas R. Ferguson, who continued as representative until after the general election in 1863. In 1873 Mr. Ferguson was appointed Collector of Customs at Collingwood, and was removed from the office in 1875. Upon his defeat Mr. Robinson retired into private life. Modern spelling has shortened the name by omitting the "w" from Newtown.

NICOLSTON.—In the early days of settlement this place was locally known as Underhill, from its situation in the shadow of two hills. It was then changed to Carluke, after a town in Lanarkshire Scotland, the birthplace of John Nicol, an old settler. As there was already a post office named Carluke, the postal authorities raised objections to the name and that now in use was substituted, this also being in honor of Mr. Nicol. Mr. Nicol was born in 1820 and came to the County of Simcoe in 1853.

NOTTAWA.—The naming of this village took place in 1853, a year before the establishment of the official post office. The occasion was the erection of the frame work of the first grist-mill, a building that stood for over fifty years, till destroyed by fire in 1904. With an event of such importance, and it was important in those days, came the necessity for a name by which the settlement would become known to the outside world. Several were suggested, one being Melville, after an early settler, but all were discarded for Nottawa Mills, a contraction of Nottawasaga, the name of the township in which the village is situated. The name having been agreed upon, a fitting christening followed, Mr. John Currie—at present, 1906, a storekeeper in the village—being chosen as director of ceremonies. At the appointed time a gale was blowing, but nothing daunted, Mr. Currie in his determination to carry out the pre-arrangements mounted to the highest beam of the mill and there pronounced the name and broke the bottle of whiskey which had been provided for the occasion. When the office was established, the word "Mills" was dropped by the postal authorities. For origin of Nottawasaga see Stayner.

ORILLIA.—The vicinity of this town is historic ground which stands out prominently in the history of the Huron Indians and the missionaries to them in the early part of the seventeenth century. It

is a much disputed question among archæologists whether or not Orillia and Mount Slaven, which is close by, occupy the site of Cahiague or Contarea, the metropolis of the Indians when visited by Champlain in 1615. It, however, is unquestioned that the Indians knew the location of Orillia as Michikaning, or Me-che-kuh-neeng, or Mitchekun, meaning "The place of the fence," the connecting link between Lakes Contarea (Couchiching) and Oentaron (Simcoe), as named on Sanson's map of 1656, or Lacus Ouentaronius, the Latinized form of Ouentaron, Ouentaronck and Oentaronk, used by Ducreux on his map of 1660. Lake Simcoe was also known as Lac Tarontha by Raffeix (see map, 1688), Toronto by Hontan, and by the early French as Lac aux Claies ("Hurdle Lake," or, as translated by some, "The lake of the fish weirs"). The allusions are to the fish fence or weir, composed of small sharpened stakes from six to ten feet in length, which were driven into the bottom of the channel now known as "The Narrows," with twigs woven in back and forth in the form of what is called "wattling," and used by the Indians in catching fish when passing from one lake to the other. Passing from the days of the Indians to a more modern time, it is found that the name "The Narrows" was generally used by the missionaries of the Christian churches and also by the early settlers, mail being directed "The Narrows, Lake Simcoe," the unofficial post office being conducted for some years in connection with the Methodist mission. With the organization of a regularly commissioned office by the Imperial Postal Department, Mr. Gerald Alley was appointed postmaster, and Newtown selected as the name from the fact of its being the newest office in this part of the country. Newtown was used but a few years when the present name, taken from the adjacent township, was adopted. As to the origin of the name Orillia, there is much difference of opinion among the students of onomatology. It is credited with being an Indian word, while it is also said to be a corruption of Orillion, a technical engineering term chiefly used by military engineering corps, referring to a certain class of fortification which the general outline of the shore of the township, viewed from the water, strongly resembles. Another theory advanced is that the name was taken from a plant known to botanists as aureula, a beautiful rose; and yet another is that it was formerly Aurelia, the name of the mother of Julius Caesar, as in the Act of 1821 naming the townships in the then northern district there is a township named Aurelia, and as in many of the land grants issued in the early days of the nineteenth century the name appears. It is also said that the name was that of Orillo, a magician and robber who lived at the mouth of the Nile, a son of an imp and a fairy, who, when any

of his limbs were lopped off, had the power of restoring it, and when his head was cut off could take it up and replace it. His life lay in a magic hair, which was cut off by an adversary, when Orillo fell dead. Others have it that the name was given in honor of the wife of an officer of distinction connected with British colonial affairs. A more generally credited origin, however, is that it is from the Spanish, meaning a margin or border, and was given by early settlers who were time-expired soldiers from the army of Wellington in the Peninsular War. These men were more or less conversant with the Spanish language, and upon seeing the position of the place between two shores named the greater shore Oro, now the township of that name, and the lesser Orillia. A still further theory is that the name was derived from that of Miss Aurelia Alley, a wealthy sister of the first postmaster, Gerald Alley, who furnished that gentleman with money to settle Orillia.

**ORO STATION.**—The name of this office was taken from the Township of Oro, the word Station being added because of its being on the railway. The office was established in 1870, when the railway was built from Barrie to Orillia. Oro is the Spanish for gold. Gardiner says "it was first applied to Rio del Oro, a river and settlement on the north coast of Africa celebrated for its trade in slaves and gold, and as it was first intended to set apart this township, or a portion of it, for liberated slaves, the African name of Oro was selected." Before the establishment of this office there was a post office a few miles distant bearing the name of Oro, also another, East Oro, but both have been abolished.

**ORR LAKE.**—Upon the establishment of a comparatively large sawmill on the shores of what was locally known as Little Lake, a settlement was formed. Soon the inconvenience of having no regular mail service was felt, and an effort was made to improve matters in this direction. The result was the establishment of a post office, for which the name at present in use was adopted, after a lumberman and mill-owner named Orr. The colloquial term for the lake was later discarded, the name of the post office taking its place.

**PAINSWICK.**—The name of this office was adopted as a compliment to Charles Palling, the veteran clerk of the Township of Innisfil. Mr. Palling was born at Edge, two miles from the town of Painswick, Gloucestershire, England.

**PENETANGUISHENE.**—The euphony and sweetness of the Indian language is illustrated in the name of this place. It is an abbreviation of the Ojibwa expression "pen-e-tang-cog-na-shene," meaning "the place of rolling sand down a high bank to the shore or water's edge," or, more briefly, "rolling or shining sands or shore." The European settlers of the province first became acquainted with this place upon the occasion of the visit of Governor Simcoe there in 1797, when it was designated as the terminus of His Honor's proposed road from Lake Simcoe to the Georgian Bay. Little progress was made by the place until 1818, when it was made the only military and naval depot on the Georgian Bay, the authorities abandoning Fort Nottawasaga, established during the War of 1812-14, and centring there. Even the change did not prove a sufficient incentive to induce settlers to come, consequently the population grew very slowly. In 1828, however, there was a large increase, owing to the transfer of the occupants of Drummond Island thereto upon the cession of that island to the United States. In 1832 it was abandoned as a naval port and shortly after the rebellion of 1837-38 it was turned over by the Imperial authorities to the Canadian Government, which did not continue it as a military centre, evidently concluding that it had outlived its usefulness. The office was commissioned in 1830.

**PENINSULA PARK.**—The origin of this name is obvious, the office being in a park situated on a peninsula which extends into Lake Simcoe. At the present it is only a summer office. It is quite modern, having come into existence upon the recent development of the point as a summer resort.

**PENVILLE.**—The family of Lloyd Penfield, a pioneer of Tecumseth, is honored by the name of this post office.

**PHELPSTON.**—This village was the centre of the lumbering operations of the late O. J. Phelps, M.P.P., and was named after him. Mr. Phelps was born in Onondaga, N.Y., in 1820, and came to Canada in 1832. After spending several years in the employ of the Dominion Government in different positions on the Welland Canal, he entered the lumber business, coming to Phelpston in 1870. In 1872 he was elected Reeve of Flos Township, a position he held for nine years. In 1879 he was a candidate in West Simcoe in the Liberal interests for the Legislative Assembly, but was defeated by Thomas Long, of Collingwood. In February, 1883, he was elected over George Moberly, of



Collingwood, and in December of the same year, in a bye-election, rendered necessary by his being unseated, defeated Dr. Thomas Wylie. In 1886, after the re-distribution, he engaged in his last political fight, contesting Centre Simcoe successfully, defeating William Harvey.

**PORT SEVERN.**—The name of this office is taken from the River Severn, at the mouth of which it is situated. That of the river was originally adapted from the Severn River in the West of England. La Hontan, who was in the country from 1684-1691, gives the name Toronto to the river as well as to Lake Simcoe. He also calls Matchedash Bay, into which the Severn River empties, "The Bay of Toronto" (Arch. Report 1899). The Ojibwa Indians knew the river as "Wa-nant-git-che-ang," "crooked or circuitous river," alluding to its serpentine course from Lake Couchiching—in Ojibwa, couch-iching, "the lake source of a river."

**PRICE'S CORNER.**—The first postmaster, Thomas Price, Sr., is honored by the name of this post office. The family is yet largely represented in the vicinity.

**RANDALL.**—Rev. A. C. Watt, rector of the Episcopal church at this place, who was largely instrumental in securing the establishment of this office, suggested the name to the postal authorities. It is the Christian name of Rev. Randall Thomas Davidson, Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. Davidson became Dean of Windsor in 1883, and advancing through the bishoprics of Rochester and Winchester, became, in 1903, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England. The office was established on August 1st, 1905.

**RANDOLPH.**—Years before the establishment of this post office the village was known as King's Mills, after the owner of a small saw-mill. This name was also applied to the portage from the head of Penetanguishene Bay to Nottawasaga Bay, traversed by Sir Richard Bonnycastle in 1832, and mentioned in his "History of Travels through Canada." Later the mill was purchased by three brothers, Royal, Oscar and John Randolph, and the village was given their name, which, upon the establishment of the post office, was adopted officially.

**ROMILLY.**—This office was established in 1875. It was named by a settler in honor of Sir Samuel Romilly, an eminent English lawyer, born in London, March 1st, 1757, died November 2nd, 1818. Sir Samuel was called to the bar in 1783 and rose to distinction in the Court of Chancery, and in the last administration of Mr. Fox was made Solicitor-General. He exerted himself in endeavoring to effect a revi-

sion of the criminal code, with a view to the limitation of capital punishment to a few heinous offences. The post office was first in Adjala Township, but is now in Tecumseth Township.

**RUGBY.**—The English city in Warwickshire, famous for its public school, of which the noted Dr. Thomas Arnold was headmaster from 1828-1842, is recalled by this post office. It was named by an ex-resident of the city in England, and established in 1860.

**RUSSELLTON.**—The first postmaster, James Russell, is honored by the name of this post office.

**SAURIN.**—James Saurin Murray, a director of the North Simcoe Railway, named this place after himself. It is said that he desired to have Elmvale called Saurin, but the residents of that village withheld their consent to the proposed change. Being determined to have his name inscribed in the history of this county, he named the next station in accord with his wish.

**SHANTY BAY.**—Many years before 1858, the year in which a post office was established in this place, Col. E. G. O'Brien, father of Col. W. E. O'Brien, ex-M.P. for Muskoka, and a leader of the Equal Rights party in days gone by, had given the name now in use to this village. He is said to have named it from the bay and the number of shanties of the pioneers there.

**SHELDON.**—George Parker, who operated a grist-mill at this place for some years, was the prime mover in securing the post office, which was established in 1867. It was first known as Alexander, after a pioneer, Joseph Alexander, who built the grist-mill. Later it was proposed to name the office Newell, after Samuel Newell, who also owned the mill for a short time, but this did not take place, owing to a difference of opinion among the villagers. The present appellation was given by the Post Office Department without explanation. Locally it bore the name of "Pigtown" for many years from the number of those animals in the village.

**SINGHAMPTON.**—In 1852, Cyrus Sing, with his brother, Josiah R. Sing, settled at the site of the village of to-day. At that time the country surrounding was a forest, sparsely settled. He built a saw-mill, grist-mill and carding-mill on the banks of the Mad River, and

laid out the village which is called after him. Locally the place was called Mad River Mills as well as Sing's Mills, but the official adoption of the name now in use soon caused the others to be lost sight of. Mr. C. R. Sing died in Meaford on April 25th, 1904.

**SMITHDALE.**—Upon the construction of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, in 1878, this place was named Glen Huron Station, after the village of that name, a mile west. Later the post office was established under the name of Smithdale, after a villager, Charles Smith.

**STAYNER.**—The extension of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway to the Georgian Bay brought the original of this town into existence. An attempt had been made by some interested ones to have a town to be known as Warrington, about a mile from the Stayner of to-day, but their efforts were brought to naught by the railway officials locating at what they pleased to term Nottawasaga Station. This name was adopted from a nearby township, which in turn was taken from the Algonquin words, Nahdoway or Nahdowa, "the Iroquois," and Saga, or Saghi, "outlet of river." Nottawasaga Station was used about two years, when about the time of the establishment of the post office it was changed to Stayner, after Sutherland Stayner, son of Mr. T. A. Stayner, deputy postmaster-general, 1848-49. Mr. Sutherland Stayner owned a large amount of land in the vicinity.

**STRONGVILLE.**—Until August 1st, 1904, this office was known as Sunnidale, but owing to the confusion caused by the similarity of the name and that of Sunnidale Corners, a change was made. The present name was given in honor of the Strong family, old and well known residents of the locality.

**STROUD.**—When opened this office was named Victoria, after our late lamented and greatly beloved Queen. There being several offices of that name already established, a change was later decided upon, and the late W. C. Little, M.P., suggested the name of his native town in Gloucestershire, England, which was accepted and which has since been in use. Mr. Little was born in 1820 and settled in the Township of Innisfil in 1847. In 1853 he was elected to the township council, in which he served as councillor, deputy-reeve and reeve until 1879. In 1867 he was elected member of the Dominion Parliament for South Simcoe, which he continuously represented until 1881.

**ST. PATRICK.**—Situated in the little village of Perkinsfield, named after N. A. Perkins, a lumberman, is a Roman Catholic church bearing the name of Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick. From this church was the name taken for the post office. St. Patrick is said to have been born in France, 372 A.D., and in early years arrived in Ireland. Returning to France he completed his education and again went to the Emerald Isle to enter upon his life's work of lighting the sacred beacon of Christianity. He died, according to Tillemont, in 455 A.D., and according to Nennius in 464 A.D., and was buried at Dun-Patrick, Dun-da-lath-glas, or "the dun of the broken fetters."

**STURGEON BAY.**—Captain William Laughton, a member and manager of the North-West Navigation Co., named this office about 1832 after the bay upon which it is situated, in which the large fish known as sturgeon abounded. The bay was the northern terminus of the Coldwater trail, the connecting link between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay, and for many years enjoyed a large trade owing to the transfer of furs and supplies to and from the Upper Lakes and later the North-West.

**SUNNIDALE CORNERS.**—Situated in Sunnidale Township, the origin of the name of this post office is obvious. That of the township is said to be from "sunny dale." The story, as given by Gardiner in "Nothing but Names," is that "a member of the staff of Peregrine Maitland got lost in the woods, and coming to an inhabited shanty in a sunny dale was impressed with the surroundings as well as overjoyed at his deliverance from danger and possible death."

**TIOGA.**—Prior to the construction of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway from Beeton to Collingwood, in 1878, this place, or rather the sawmill, was known as Poda Mills, said to have been so called after a popular Yankee employed in the mill owned by one Paul Gallagher. About that time a lumber firm, DePuy & Co., moved from Tioga, New York State, and shortly after secured a post office, which Mr. Ten Eyck DePuy, one of the firm, named after their native town and county. The original town, which is near the southern border of the State of New York, figured in the American Revolution to a small degree, being in 1779 the base of operations for General Sullivan's reprisals on the Iroquois. The name "Pody" appears in Dickenson's map of the County of Simcoe published in 1878, where it was evidently mis-spelled. Poda was one of three mills, the others being locally

known as Port Misery, the allusion said to have been to the unsatisfactory quantity of food furnished the workmen, and Catawampus, from the number of felines in the neighborhood.

**THOMPSONVILLE.**—This office was named after a pioneer family. Besides owning lands they built and operated mills.

**THORNTON.**—The early name of the locality in which this office is situated was Henry's Corners, or Henryville, after a pioneer family. Upon rising to the dignity of a post office the authorities objected to the local name on the ground that there was already an office of that name, and gave Thornton instead, probably after Sir Edward Thornton, later British Ambassador at Washington. The office was established in 1854.

**TOTTENHAM.**—

Of all the happy hamlets here below,  
Where peace and plenty in abundance flow,  
None can compare with famous Tottenham.—*Colgan.*

An Irishman, Alexander Totten, a native of the County of Armagh, settled at this place in the closing twenties of the nineteenth century, long years before the establishment of the post office, which did not come until May 1st, 1858. It was in his honor that the name was given.

**TUAM.**—Patrick Derham named this office after the place of his birth, a market and episcopal city of Galway, Ireland. The city dates from the fifth century, when an abbey was founded there. In the beginning of the sixth century it was raised to a see, and about 1152 to an archbishopric. In 1839, under the Church Temporalities Act, it was reduced to a bishopric, but is yet the seat of a Roman Catholic bishop. The see received its charter about 1616, the eleventh year of the reign of James I., King of England. Tuam-in-Galway, as it is known in the Emerald Isle, in Irish is Tuaim-da-ghualann (Tuam-a-woolan), meaning "the tumulus of the two shoulders," from the shape of the old sepulchral mound that gave the name to the place. The post office of the Simcoe village was established on February 3rd, 1863.

**UHTHOFF.**—Baron Adolphe von Hugel, a former president of the Midland Railway, is credited with having named this office after a place in Germany. He was born in Mayence, Germany, and died in Port Hope, Ontario, in 1901. His connection with the Midland Railway proved very unfortunate, causing him a loss of \$400,000.

**UTOPIA.**—The union of the two Greek words, "ou," not, and "topos," place, and the application of the outcome "Utopia" by Sir Thomas Moore to an imaginary island where everything is perfect, the law, the politics, the institutions, etc., was clever and apt. The adoption of such a term for a post office in the wilds of the County of Simcoe can scarcely be credited to cleverness, but possibly to sarcasm on the part of those who applied it to what was for some years known as Essa Crossing, from the township surrounding. The story told is that a family named Smith left Barrie to go north to seek a home. After travelling a few miles, for this post office is not far from the county town, they came across what they thought to be a good place to live, and believing they had found a land of perfection, one of the party, who, doubtless, was a reader of Sir Thomas Moore's political novel, suggested the name which was adopted and has since been used.

**VAN VLACK.**—An early settler, storekeeper, fisherman and mill-owner, John Van Vlack, named this office. He was also the first postmaster.

**VASEY.**—The first postmaster of this office was one of the early settlers, Mark Vasey, and it is his name which is perpetuated by it. The office is situated in the midst of historic ground, being near, if not upon, the site of the Huron village of St. Ignace, at which the Iroquois massacred the Hurons on March 16th, 1649.

**VICTORIA HARBOR.**—Until the construction of the Midland Railway, in 1871, the location of this office went by the name of Hogg's Bay, the name applied to the harbor after an early Methodist minister. The present name was selected as a mark of loyalty to our late beloved sovereign, Queen Victoria.

**VIGO.**—A Peninsular War veteran, who served in Spain under Wellesley, named this office after a gulf and town on the west coast of Spain. The office was established about 1866.

**VINE.**—The late William C. Little, M.P., is responsible for the name of this post office. He took it from a small town of the same name in Gloucestershire, England, in which shire he was born. The office was established in 1865.

**WARMINSTER.**—The love of his native town in Wiltshire, England, prompted one William G. Deacon to name this office after it. No objections being raised, the postal authorities accepted the suggestion.

**WASHAGO.**—Wash-a-go-min, meaning “sparkling waters,” was a term applied to Lake Couchiching by the Indians. In the course of time the name in an Anglicized form became associated with the village locally known as Severn Landing, after the river of that name; finally it was adopted for the post office. It is pronounced Washawgo.

**WAUBAUSHENE.**—The Indians of the early part of the nineteenth century knew this place as Wau-bau-shene, meaning “the rocky shore,” or “the meeting of the rocks.” The first is an allusion to the physical conditions surrounding the village, and the latter to two rocks which occupied prominent positions at the mouth of the North River, on the western bank of which it is situated. In referring to the place many Indians spoke of it as Baushene. The office was first established in 1840, but went out of existence in a few years. In 1851 it was reëstablished upon the erection of a sawmill by William Hall.

**WAVERLEY.**—After being known for many years as Bannister’s Corners, after a pioneer, John Bannister, this place assumed the dignity of a post office. The old name was then discarded, the postal authorities substituting Waverley, taken from Sir Walter Scott’s first historical novel, published in 1814. The office was established on October 1st, 1858.

**WEST ESSA.**—The origin of this name is obvious, the post office being situated in the western part of the Township of Essa. For the origin of Essa see Baxter P. O.

**WYEBRIDGE.**—In 1859 this place, which is on the River Wye, was named Macville by one Angus Grant from Glengarry, in honor of his father-in-law, Michael Macdonell, a retired Hudson’s Bay officer, who owned a large tract of land in the vicinity. In 1859 it was changed to the present name from the fact of a bridge being built across the river at the village.

**WYEVALE.**—This post office takes its name from the Wye River, which flows through the village. The river was named after the River Wye, in the west of England, which empties into the Severn River at Chepstow. The village came into existence upon the construction of the North Simcoe Railway to Penetanguishene, about 1871.

Collingwood, Ont.



